OREGON CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE

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PORTLAND 5, OREGON

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1956

OREGON: Oregon farmers intend to plant a larger total acreage of spring-sown crops than last year according to the intentions to plant report by the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The sharpest increase in small grain crops is indicated for spring wheat followed by oats and barley. Growers plan a somewhat smaller overall acreage of potatoes, about the same acreage of field corn, and a slight increase in sugar beets compared to last year. A larger acreage cut for hay is in prospect if present plans are carried out.

The purpose of the intentions report is to assist growers generally in making such further changes in their acreage plans as may appear desirable. The acreages actually planted in 1956 may turn out to be larger or smaller than indicated, by reason of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, the agricultural program, and the effect of this report itself upon farmer's actions.

Small Grain Crops: Growers intend to plant 190,000 acres of spring wheat in 1956, 35 per cent above last year and the largest acreage since 1953. The total acreage devoted to wheat in 1956 (spring planted plus fall seeded remaining for harvest) is now indicated to be unchanged from 1955.

Considerable of the increase in spring planted grain crops is due to necessary reseeding of land in western Oregon on which fall seeded crops froze out. Intended plantings of oats are up 8 per cent to 484,000 acres, the largest acreage planted since 1950. The prospective barley plantings of 626,000 acres is up 2 per cent from last year's record planting of 614,000 acres.

Other Crops: Intended plantings of potatoes are down 1,000 acres from last year, sugar beets up slightly and field corn unchanged from 1955. A larger acreage cut for hay is in prospect this year. If present plans are carried out the acreage of all hay harvested will total 1,060,000 acres, 2 per cent above last year. Oregon hay supplies were reduced to low levels by the long 1955-56 feeding period.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST

	Average 1945-54			Planted Acreages		
	Acreage Planted (000) Acres	Yield Per Planted Acre Average	Unit	1955 (000) Acres	Indicated 1956 (000) Acres	1956 as pct. of 1955 Per cent
SPRING WHEAT						
Oregon	230	23.2	Bu.	141	190	135
Washington	592	21.9	"	180	194	108
North Idaho 1/	92	23.0	"	42	42	100
Pac. N. W. 1/	914	-	"	363	426	117
CORN						
Oregon	28	41.0	"	40	40	100
Washington	21	55.2	"	37	33	89
Idaho	36	50.1	"	61	63	103
Total 3 States	85	-	"	138	136	99
OATS 2/						
Oregon 3/	475	19.5	"	449	484	108
Washington	227	30.4	"	237	220	93
Idaho	208	38.6	"	230	205	89
Total 3 States	910	-	"	916	909	99
BARLEY 2/						
Oregon	350	31.2	"	614	626	102
Washington	179	32.4	"	770	701	91
Idaho	370	33.0	"	605	532	88
Total 3 States	899	-	"	1,989	1,859	93
ALL HAY 4/						
Oregon	1,042	1.68	Tons	1,039	1,060	102
Washington	813	1.90	"	829	862	104
Idaho	1,088	2.24	"	1,195	1,231	103
Total 3 States	2,943	-	"	3,063	3,153	103
PEAS-DRYFIELD 5/						
Oregon	18	991	Lbs.	5	9	180
Washington	184	1,186	"	179	186	104
Idaho	104	1,242	"	100	135	135
Total 3 States	306	-	"	284	330	116
POTATOES						
Oregon	40	302	Bu.	41	40	98
Washington	31	366	"	39	43	110
Idaho	157	268	"	171	174	102
Total 3 States	228	-	"	251	257	102
California: Early	69	406	"	69	62	90
Late	41	356	"	47	47	100
SUGAR BEETS						
Oregon	20.3	18.3	Tons	17.7	18.0	102
Washington	21.1	20.1	"	30.9	31.0	100
Idaho	83.2	15.6	"	79.7	81.0	102
Total 3 States	124.6	-	"	128.3	130.0	101

1/ Excludes southern Idaho. 2/Includes acreage planted in preceding fall. 3/The following total acreage of oats grown with peas and vetch included in planted acreages: 1955-96,000 acres; 1956-106,000 acres intended. 4/Acreage harvested. 5/Includes acreage grown for seed.

UNITED STATES: Growers' March intentions point to a moderate reduction from last year's level in the combined acreage of the Nation's crops. Feed grain acreage may be notably smaller than last year because of important reductions in corn, oats, and barley. Spring planted food grains will exceed last year's total because of larger spring wheat plantings, especially of durum varieties, although rice planting will be sharply reduced. Changes this year from early prospects for different crops may be somewhat greater than usual after all influences have been reflected. Some allotment programs, notably tobacco and durum wheat, have already been modified since farmers reported their acreage intentions about March 1. Legislation now being considered by Congress may also result in acreage shifts if adopted before planting is completed. Future weather is also a factor. Winter wheat acreage in much of the Southern Plains may still be lost from drought and wind erosion with varying possibilities for replanting to other crops. The season is somewhat backward over much of the Nation, allowing added time for late decisions. Soil moisture supplies now appear generally favorable with the exception of the Southern Plains and extensive areas in Western Corn Belt States. Western irrigation water prospects are best in years.

Food grain acreage seeded this spring may exceed the 1955 total by about 1/2 million acres or 3 per cent largely because of the sharp increase indicated in plantings of durum wheat. The extent of durum acreage to be planted is subject to possible further increase because of enlarged acreage allotments recently approved by Congress. Including the 45.2 million acres of winter wheat planted, as estimated last December, the expected 14.6 million acres of all spring wheat indicate an all wheat total of 59.8 million acres, 1.5 million acres more than planted for 1955.

Feed grain crops apparently will furnish the major part of the total acreage reduction from the 1955 level. Corn acreage now promises to be the smallest planted since 1926--earliest year in the series of planted acreage estimates. However, even from this year's reduced acreage yields at the 5-year average level for each State would give another 3 billion bushel crop. This is as much as had been grown in any year as recently as 1942 after hybrid corn had already become commonplace in the main Corn Belt. Oats plantings will be cut 2 million acres or about 4 per cent below the 1955 record with decreases in all except the Western and North Atlantic regions. Barley acreage will be reduced 1.3 million acres with decreases in nearly all leading States. Hay acreage is expected to make a slight further gain over the 1955 level maintaining its usual one-fifth of the combined total of all harvested crops.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - UNITED STATES

CROP	PLANTED ACREAGES			
	Average 1945-54	1955	Indicated 1956	1956 as Pct. of 1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Per cent
Corn, all	84,815	81,577	78,686	96.5
All spring wheat	20,138	13,891	14,605	105.1
Durum	2,615	1,424	2,021	141.9
Other spring	17,523	12,467	12,584	100.9
Oats	44,307	48,021	46,063	95.9
Barley	11,713	16,102	14,773	91.7
Flaxseed	4,367	5,192	5,465	105.3
Rice	1,894	1,842	1,597	86.7
Sorghums for all purposes	14,383	24,113	24,198	100.4
Potatoes	1,858	1,452	1,394	96.0
Sweetpotatoes	466	364	323	88.7
Tobacco 1/	1,726	1,510	1,366	90.4
Beans, dry edible	1,676	1,660	1,535	92.5
Peas, dry field	369	325	377	116.0
Soybeans 2/	14,290	19,669	21,760	110.6
Peanuts 2/	2,943	2,004	1,923	96.0
Hay 1/	73,836	73,984	74,305	100.4
Sugar beets	847	798	829	103.8

1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.

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